

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOUTH AFRICA: WHY NATAL IS QUIET

ALTHOUGH NATAL HAS REMAINED QUIET DURING THE VIOLENCE IN OTHER PARTS OF SOUTH AFRICA, AMCONSUL DURBAN QUESTIONS WHETHER THIS WILL LAST. IN ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THE RELATIVE TRANQUILITY OF THE REGION, DURBAN SAYS:

--THE POPULATION IS RELATIVELY HOMOGENEOUS, AND THE ZULUS MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL CULTURE.

--THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BLACKS IS LESS DEGRADING THAN IN SOWETO AND CAPETOWN.

--THE SAG IS KNOWN TO RESPOND SEVERELY TO VIOLENCE IN
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NATAL, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT REMEMBERS THE

ROLE OF THE ZULUS IN THE WARS OF THE LAST CENTURY.

--THE ZULUS AS A NATION RESPOND TO A SINGLE LEADER;
THAT POSITION IS CURRENTLY HELD BY CHIEF BUTHELEZI,
WHO SO FAR HAS ESCHEWED VIOLENCE.

CONSULATE COMMENT: UNLESS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE
IN ALLEVIATING THE SITUATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS, IT IS
DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE COMBINATION OF BUTHELEZI'S RELATIVELY
BENIGN LEADERSHIP AND THE OTHER FACTORS CITED CAN PERMA-
NENTLY STEM THE TIDE OF BLACK RESENTMENT IN NATAL AND
KWAZULU. (CONFIDENTIAL) DURBAN 448, 9/13.)

2. SWEDEN: US CRITICIZED ANEW OVER ALLENDE COUP

SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON, IN A SHORT SPEECH SEP-
TEMBER 11 MARKING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILEAN
COUP, CRITICIZED THE ALLEGED KEY ROLE OF THE NIXON ADMIN-
ISTRATION AND THE CIA IN DESTABILIZING THE ALLENDE REGIME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME PRESS REPORTS CHARACTERIZE
ANDERSSON'S STATEMENT AS AN ESCALATION OF GOS CRITICISM OF
THE US ROLE IN CHILE, WE DOUBT THIS IS SO. HIS REMARKS
WERE UNDOUBTEDLY STIMULATED BY WIDESPREAD DISDAIN FOR THE
PINOCHET REGIME, PARTICULARLY IN THE LEFT-WING OF HIS OWN
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) STOCKHOLM
4999, 9/13.)

3. IRAQ: CHANGES IN THE WORKS?

OUR INTERESTS SECTION IN BAGHDAD HAS BEEN TOLD BY A BRITISH
COLLEAGUE THAT PRESIDENT BAKR, WHO SUFFERS FROM CHRONIC ILL
HEALTH, MAY HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY PARALYZED BY A RECENT
STROKE. THE INTERESTS SECTION BELIEVES THIS MAY SPEED UP
THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO SADDAM HUSSEIN, VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL. (CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD
1329, 9/14.)

4. TUNISIA REPUDIATES CALL FOR OCTOBER ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT

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EMBASSY TUNIS REPORTS THAT, ON HIS RETURN FROM THE ARAB
LEAGUE MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY TOLD
THE PRESS THAT THE DECISION TO HOLD ANOTHER ARAB LEAGUE
SUMMIT DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER IS NEITHER "POS-
ITIVE NOR REALISTIC." CHATTY ADDED:

..TUNISIA AGREED TO THE DECISION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN
UNANIMITY, BUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON REQUIRES UR-

GENT ATTENTION BEFORE SARKIS TAKES OFFICE.

--THE BASIS FOR PEACE IN LEBANON REMAINS THE JULY 29
DAMASCUS ACCORD BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PLO, BUT THE
FAILURE OF THE PARTIES TO AGREE ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF
THE TRIPARTITE COMMISSION HAS PREVENTED ITS IMPLEMEN-
TATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) TUNIS 6388, 9/14.)

5. TRINIDAD: WILLIAMS WINS ELECTION

THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM) UNDER THE LEAD-
ERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS RECEIVED A SOLID NEW
MANDATE AT THE POLLS ON SEPTEMBER 13, WINNING 24 OF 36 PAR-
LIAMENTARY SEATS. THE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE
EAST INDIAN-BASED DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY, FAILED TO WIN A
SEAT. THE NEW OPPOSITION WILL BE LED BY THE LEFTIST UNITED
LABOR FRONT. (UNCLASSIFIED) PORT OF SPAIN 2348, 9/14.)
ROBINSON

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